

**HMAS SYDNEY — SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

*Statement by Member for Jandakot*

**MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot)** [12.54 pm]: Saturday, 19 November next week will mark the seventieth anniversary of the loss of HMAS *Sydney* off the coast of Western Australia. It was Australia's greatest maritime tragedy, which claimed the lives of 645 of our finest sons, along with 82 sailors from the *Kormoran*. HMAS *Sydney* holds a special place in the hearts of all Western Australians, as the souls it carried will forever lie in the waters of our great state. Although the discovery in 2008 of *Sydney*'s final resting place provided answers to many who have grieved, we should remember on this day that the contribution and sacrifice made by these men and their families will not be forgotten.

I have left in the lounge a copy of the last photo that was taken of *Sydney*'s crew. I hope members take the time to look at the smiling faces of her sailors: camaraderie and adventure in their eyes, answering the call for our nation in a time of need. It is best described in the words of her sailors, such as Able Seaman Knight, who wrote —

Action has been sounded off.  
There's panic for a while  
But soon the Aussies settle down  
To face it with a smile.

Stoker Jack Crowle had written to his mother urging her to carry on if he was lost at sea. He wrote —

My death would not mean that your struggle and sacrifices have been in vain, it just means that your sacrifice was as great as mine. However great this sacrifice is, remember I lived and died an Australian and I don't think there is any greater honour.